Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00726 071221Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 071040Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6069
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECRET CAPE TOWN 0726

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SF, US

SUBJ: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 103490 AND 104408

1. FOURIE HAS RECEIVED TEXT OF WHAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE GAVE SA CHARGE SHEARER YESTERDAY, MAY 6. BEFORE GIVING REPLY, HE WILL HAVE TO CONSULT PM VORSTER WHO IS IN THE BUSH ON A HUNTING TRIP (WHICH FOURIE ASKED US TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL). ANSWER, THEREFORE, WILL NOT BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE LATE MONDAY OR SOMETIME TUESDAY, MAY 10. FOURIE WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON WHETHER HE ANTICIPATED A PROBLEM. HE HOPED THE MATTER WOULD "SIMMER DOWN" OVER THE WEEKEND. MEANWHILE, HE WAS TRYING TO "LIE LOW."

2. FOURIE HAD NOT YET SEEN THE CAPE TIMES THIS MORNING,
MAY 7, WHICH FEATURES INTERVIEW OF BOTHA WHILE CAMPAIGNING
IN HIS WESTDENE CONSTITUENCY. ACCORDING TO TIMES,
BOTHA SAID IF AMBASSADOR YOUNG NOW FOLLOWED "NORMAL
PROCEDURES," IN DECIDING WHETHER TO RECEIVE HIM THE
SAG WOULD HAVE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
STATEMENTS ON LEGITIMACY AND REPRESENTATIVE NATURE OF
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SAG AND HIS "REFUSAL TO ACCORD SAG NORMAL DIPLOMATIC COURTESIES." ASKED IF SAG WOULD REFUSE ENTRY TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG, BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID, "WE MAY NOT ALLOW HIM IN BECAUSE OF THIS LATEST THING." (DIE BURGER REPORTS HE SAID IF AMBASSADOR YOUNG "DOES NOT FOLLOW NORMAL PROCEDURES, THERE WILL BE CHOICE BUT TO REFUSE HIM PERMISSION TO ENTER THE COUNTRY." TIMES STORY

ALSO REPORTS FROM US ON "A REXLAXED AND SMILING MR. YOUNG" SAYING HE STILL HOPED TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AND HE HAD NOT EVEN BEGUN TO CONSIDER WHAT HE WOULD DO BEYOND THE TWO SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS DURING HIS SHORT STAY. INCLUDED IS A REPORT FROM CAPE TIMES CORRESPONDENT RICHARD WALKER THAT "HIGH" US SOURCES PRIVATELY BELEIVE BOTHA'S "ROBUST REACTION CLOSELY LINKED TO HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN." (COMMENT: THIS IS A COMMON VIEW HERE AS WELL.)

SECRET

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